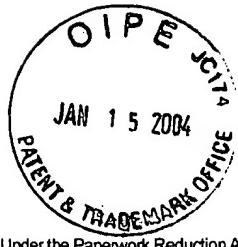


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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

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| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1 | Application Number       | 09/677,968        |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date              | October 3, 2000   |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | Shinichi Morimoto |
|   |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | 2132              |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | Not Yet Assigned  |
|   |   |    |   | Attorney Docket Number   | A3156.0018/P018   |

| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b> |                       |  |                                |  |   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials*           | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
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|                                 |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
| JL                              | BA                    | JP 6-237249   | 08-23-1994                     |  | T <sup>6</sup>  |

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|  |                       |   |  |  |  |
| JL                                     | CA                    | Japanese Office Action issued December 16, 2003 (w/ English translation of relevant portions)   |  |  |  |

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